

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NEA-07 EUR-08 SP-02

L-01 ACDA-10 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /060 W

-----005354 270855Z /10/14

R 261043Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7719

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8028

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE LINE ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PBOR, SO, KE, ET, DJ

SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA AND SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 127771 (B) NAIROBI 7902

1. VICE PRESIDENT MOI RETURNED TO NAIROBI AND RECEIVED ME TODAY TO MAKE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REF A. MOI, WHO SAID HE HAD ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON SUBJECT BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI, WAS MOST CORDIAL AND DID NOT APPEAR UNDULY DISTURBED BY THE NEWS OF OUR POSSIBLE ARMS PROVISION TO SOMALIA. AS WITH WAIYAKI, I STRESSED THAT OUR INTENTION TO SEND A LIMITED-SCOPE SURVEY TEAM TO MOGADISCIO DID NOT IMPLY ANY SUBSEQUENT COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY ARMAMENTS. I ASSURED THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT ANY FUTURE US ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA WOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO DEFENSIVE ITEMS THAT COULD NOT BE USED FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS.

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2. THE VICE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DESIRE TO HELP BRING STABILITY TO THE HORN AND TO PREVENT, IF POSSIBLE, THE SOMALIS FROM REESTABLISHING THEIR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS. MOI SAID HE HOPED THAT EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO TURN SAID AWAY FROM HIS AGGRESSIVE POLICIES, AND I TOLD THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT WE HAD URGED ALL OF SOMALIA'S FRIENDS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE ON

SIAD IN ORDER BETTER TO ASSURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE HORN. IN ONE CYNICAL COMMENT ON SIAD BARRE'S "ASSURANCE," THE VICE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT IF SIAD DID ADHERE TO THE USG PROHIBITION ON THE TRANSFER OF US-SUPPLIED ARMS HE PROBABLY WOULD CONTINUE ASSISTING THE WSLF WITH ARMS OF SOVIET ORIGIN.

3. COMMENT: WE WERE A BIT APPREHENSIVE THAT THIS DEMARCHE MIGHT PRODUCE THE SAME SORT OF VIOLENT KENYAN REACTION WE EVOKED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHEN WE MADE OUR DEMARCHE URGING THE KENYANS TO ADOPT A MORE BALANCED POSITION VIS-A-VIS ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. ABSENCE TO DATE OF ANY SIGNS OF ADVERSE REACTION LEADS ME TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WON'T HAPPEN THIS TIME. CERTAINLY, THE ETHIOPIAN VICTORY AND EXPULSION OF THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY FROM THE OGADEN HAVE SERVED TO REDUCE KENYAN APPREHENSION CONSIDERABLY FROM THE LEVEL IT HAD REACHED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE FIGHTING. FURTHER, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON HAVE GIVEN THE KENYANS A GREATER APPRECIATION OF US GLOBAL CONCERNS WHICH MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR US OFTEN TO FIND A MIDDLE WAY BETWEEN SEVERAL COMPETING INTERESTS.
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